2003-04 SESSION COMMITTEE HEARING RECORDS

Committee Name:

Senate Committee on Health, Children, Families, Aging and Long Term Care (SC-HCFALTC)

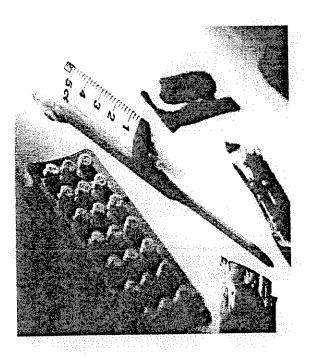
Sample:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- > 03hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01a
- > 03hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01b
- > 03hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt02

- > Appointments ... Appt
- > **
- > Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule
- > **
- ➤ <u>Committee Hearings</u> ... CH
- > **
- > Committee Reports ... CR
- > **
- Executive Sessions ... ES
- > **
- ► <u>Hearing Records</u> ... HR
- > 03hr_sb0186_pt13
- Miscellaneous ... Misc
- > **
- Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP
- > **

Wisconsin Medicaid Family Planning Waiver



The Family Planning Waiver (FPW) provides no cost reproductive health services and contraceptive supplies to income eligible women age 15-44.

What services are covered under the FPW?

- Pap and Pelvic Exams
- Sexually Transmitted Disease Testing for females, including HIV
- Birth Control/Contraceptives:

Depo Provera

Oral Contraceptives (pills)

Condoms

Contraceptive Foam & Gel

Diaphragms

Natural Family Planning -

supplies

Tubal Ligation

IUD

Contraceptive Implants

- Pregnancy Testing
- Medications (for females only, to treat STDs and vaginal infections)
- ♦ Colposcopy
- Various lab screening tests

2003 SENATE BILL 186

June 3, 2003 – Introduced by Joint Committee For Review of Administrative Rules. Referred to Committee on Health, Children, Families, Aging and Long Term Care.

1 AN ACT *to amend* 49.45 (24r) of the statutes; **relating to:** a Medical Assistance 2 family planning demonstration project minimum age eligibility limitation 3 change.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) must request a waiver from the secretary of the federal Department of Health and Human Services for conduct of a demonstration project, under the Medical Assistance Program, to provide family planning services to women aged 15 to 44 whose family incomes do not exceed 185% of the federal poverty line for families the size of the women's families. DHFS must implement the waiver, if granted, by July 1, 1998, or the waiver's effective date, whichever is later.

This bill changes the minimum age requirement, from 15 to 18 years, for eligibility for the Medical Assistance Program demonstration project to provide family planning services to women whose family incomes do not exceed 185% of the federal poverty line for families the size of the women's families.

This bill is introduced as required by s. 227.26 (2) (f), stats., in support of the action of the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules in suspending on April 31, 2003, a revision to chs. HFS 101 to 107, Wis. Adm. Code, relating to the Medicaid Family Planning Demonstration Project, an emergency rule of DHFS. The suspended rule provided for implementation in February 2003 of the Medicaid Family Planning Demonstration Project, under which family planning services would be provided to women aged 15 to 44 whose family incomes do not exceed 185% of the federal poverty line for families the size of the women's families.

SENATE BILL 186

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For further information see the *state and local* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 49.45 (24r) of the statutes is amended to read:

49.45 (24r) Family Planning demonstration project. The department shall request a waiver from the secretary of the federal department of health and human services to permit the department to conduct a demonstration project to provide family planning services, as defined in s. 253.07 (1) (b), under medical assistance to any woman between the ages of 15 18 and 44 whose family income does not exceed 185% of the poverty line for a family the size of the woman's family. If the waiver is granted and in effect, the department shall implement the waiver no later than July 1, 1998, or on the effective date of the waiver, whichever is later.

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CRIS notes 10-14-03 Committee hearing

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From:

Kurtz, Hunter

Sent:

Wednesday, October 15, 2003 10:18 AM

To: Subject: Halbur, Jennifer FW: public hearing

CR Inbox

----Original Message----

From: kosborne@midwives.org [mailto:kosborne@midwives.org]

Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2003 10:25 AM

To: sen.roessler@legis.state.wi.us

Subject: public hearing

To: Chairs Roessler and Owens and Committee Members From: Kathryn Osborne (American College of Nurse Midwives)

First, I would like to apologize for not being able to stay through to the end of the hearing yesterday. I had a previous appointment that didn't allow me to return after the recess that we needed to take.

Second, I made a promise to my patients (who, I might add, as mothers of color who actually meet the income requirements of the Family Planning Waiver, had no public representation yesterday) to get their message to the committees. I invited several of them to join me yesterday, but none of them were able because of work and family commitments. Having left before the conclusion of the hearing, I have felt a terrible sense of letting them down - so this is why I write this morning. I promise to be brief - you have my written testimony which I hope you read - but I just need to add a couple of points.

There was a lot of testimony about how the Waiver displaces the parent-child relationship. You need to know that many, many recipients of benefits from the Waiver seek family planning not only with parental consent, but with parental encouragement as well. I know that you are aware that passage of AB 383 and SB 186 does not change the federal requirement that contraception be available to minors without parental consent. Please remember that what it does do is reduce access to family planning services for some of our most vulnerable 15-17 year olds living in the state of WI - those living in poverty.

It is also important to remember that lots of really great teenagers, from perfectly wonderful families make bad decisions - like the decision to become sexually active. The Waiver acts as a safetly net for those teens, helping to prevent an even bigger mistake: teen pregnancy. I've grown weary of seeing so many babies brought into this world by teen parents. In addition to counseling and recommendations for abstinence, I don't know of any other way to prevent more of them than by making family planning services widely available.

Finally, you heard a lot of half-truths yesterday. I am confident that you will check the validity of the things you heard, as you promised during the hearing. Please be sure that all the references you receive (especially from Dr. Meaker) come from refereed journals. Just because a book has been published, doesn't mean it is based on fact.

Thanks for hearing me, and my patients. I would be happy to anser any quesitons that you have, either by e-mail or by phone.

Respectfully, Kathryn Osborne (241-5094) to: IN:sen.roessler@legis.state.wi.us cc: IN:sen.kanavas@legis.state.wi.us IN:sen.brown@legis.state.wi.us IN:sen.welch@legis.state.wi.us IN:sen.schultz@legis.state.wi.us IN:sen.robson@legis.state.wi.us IN:sen.chvala@legis.state.wi.us IN:sen.jauch@legis.state.wi.us IN:sen.carpenter@legis.state.wi.us IN:rep.owens@legis.state.wi.us IN:rep.kestell@legis.state.wi.us IN:rep.jensen@legis.state.wi.us IN:rep.friske@legis.state.wi.us IN:rep.berceau@legis.state.wi.us IN:rep.krusick@legis.state.wi.us

From:

Kurtz, Hunter

Sent:

Wednesday, October 15, 2003 9:45 AM

To:

Halbur, Jennifer

Subject:

FW: I OPPOSE SB 186/AB 383!

CR InBOX

----Original Message----

From: cabeilke@aol.com [mailto:cabeilke@aol.com]

Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2003 4:53 PM

To: sen.roessler@legis.state.wi.us Subject: I OPPOSE SB 186/AB 383!

October 14, 2003

Dear Sen. Roessler,

I support the Family Planning Waiver as it is currently implemented and want my opposition to the effort to repeal the Waiver as proposed in SB 186/AB 383 counted during the public hearing.

The Family Planning Waiver provides basic health care to low-income women and saves Wisconsin taxpayers millions of dollars. The Family Planning Waiver has already helped over 31,000 Wisconsin women access basic and needed preventative and diagnostic reproductive health care, including screenings for breast and cervical cancer, annual check-ups, birth control, and testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections.

As you know, the Family Planning Waiver was implemented January of 2003 to extend family planning services to low-income women aged 15-44 who are at high risk of unintended pregnancy because they do not have health coverage through Medicaid or BadgerCare. The goals of the Family Planning Waiver are to reduce unintended and teen pregnancy, the transmission of sexually transmitted infections and to promote the early detection of cancer among low-income women who have no health care coverage. Prior to the implementation of the Family Planning Waiver, low-income women in Wisconsin had to be pregnant or have children to qualify for preventative reproductive health care services and birth control.

The Department of Health and Family Services has testified about their concern that efforts to amend young women out of the program could result in the loss of the entire Family Planning Waiver. In addition to attracting \$38 million in federal funds over the five-year project to Wisconsin, the Family Planning Waiver is estimated to save our state at least \$17 million GPR dollars and \$8.9 million in Medicaid costs associated with unintended pregnancies.

When this issue is before the Health and Family Law Committees, I urge you to support the Family Planning Waiver that provides basic health care to low-income women and saves Wisconsin taxpayers millions of dollars, and oppose SB 186/AB 383.

Sincerely,

Caroline Beilke 2047 N Cambridge Ave Apt 106

From:

Kurtz, Hunter

Sent:

Wednesday, October 15, 2003 9:35 AM

To:

Halbur, Jennifer

Subject:

FW: I OPPOSE SB 186/AB 383!

CR inbox

----Original Message----

From: sadchick6@hotmail.com [mailto:sadchick6@hotmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2003 1:57 AM

To: sen.roessler@legis.state.wi.us Subject: I OPPOSE SB 186/AB 383!

October 15, 2003

Dear Sen. Roessler,

I support the Family Planning Waiver as it is currently implemented and want my opposition to the effort to repeal the Waiver as proposed in SB 186/AB 383 counted during the public hearing.

The Family Planning Waiver provides basic health care to low-income women and saves Wisconsin taxpayers millions of dollars. The Family Planning Waiver has already helped over 31,000 Wisconsin women access basic and needed preventative and diagnostic reproductive health care, including screenings for breast and cervical cancer, annual check-ups, birth control, and testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections.

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When this issue is before the Health and Family Law Committees, I urge you to support the Family Planning Waiver that provides basic health care to low-income women and saves Wisconsin taxpayers millions of dollars, and oppose SB 186/AB 383.

Sincerely,

Sasha Aranow N53 N435 Park Circle

From:

Kurtz, Hunter

Sent:

Wednesday, October 15, 2003 9:36 AM

To:

Halbur, Jennifer

Subject:

FW: I OPPOSE SB 186/AB 383!

----Original Message----

From: pnkglitercandi@yahoo.com [mailto:pnkglitercandi@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2003 10:45 PM

To: sen.roessler@legis.state.wi.us Subject: I OPPOSE SB 186/AB 383!

October 14, 2003

Dear Sen. Roessler,

I support the Family Planning Waiver as it is currently implemented and want my opposition to the effort to repeal the Waiver as proposed in SB 186/AB 383 counted during the public hearing.

The Family Planning Waiver provides basic health care to low-income women and saves Wisconsin taxpayers millions of dollars. The Family Planning Waiver has already helped over 31,000 Wisconsin women access basic and needed preventative and diagnostic reproductive health care, including screenings for breast and cervical cancer, annual check-ups, birth control, and testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections.

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When this issue is before the Health and Family Law Committees, I urge you to support the Family Planning Waiver that provides basic health care to low-income women and saves Wisconsin taxpayers millions of dollars, and oppose SB 186/AB 383.

Sincerely,

April Young null

From:

Kurtz, Hunter

Sent:

Wednesday, October 15, 2003 9:36 AM

To:

Halbur, Jennifer

Subject:

FW: I OPPOSE SB 186/AB 383!

CR INBOX

----Original Message----

From: lesleywolf@wisc.edu [mailto:lesleywolf@wisc.edu]

Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2003 9:25 AM

To: sen.roessler@legis.state.wi.us Subject: I OPPOSE SB 186/AB 383!

October 15, 2003

Dear Sen. Roessler,

I support the Family Planning Waiver as it is currently implemented and want my opposition to the effort to repeal the Waiver as proposed in SB 186/AB 383 counted during the public hearing.

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When this issue is before the Health and Family Law Committees, I urge you to support the Family Planning Waiver that provides basic health care to low-income women and saves Wisconsin taxpayers millions of dollars, and oppose SB 186/AB 383.

Sincerely,

Lesley Wolf 330 N. Carroll #101

From:

Kurtz, Hunter

Sent:

Wednesday, October 15, 2003 9:37 AM

To:

Halbur, Jennifer

Subject:

FW: I OPPOSE SB 186/AB 383!

CR INBOX

----Original Message----

From: portgene@aol.com [mailto:portgene@aol.com]

Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2003 7:33 PM

To: sen.roessler@legis.state.wi.us Subject: I OPPOSE SB 186/AB 383!

October 14, 2003

Dear Sen. Roessler,

I support the Family Planning Waiver as it is currently implemented and want my opposition to the effort to repeal the Waiver as proposed in SB 186/AB 383 counted during the public hearing.

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When this issue is before the Health and Family Law Committees, I urge you to support the Family Planning Waiver that provides basic health care to low-income women and saves Wisconsin taxpayers millions of dollars, and oppose SB 186/AB 383.

Sincerely,

Donna Cooper 190 N 88th St

From:

Kurtz, Hunter

Sent:

Wednesday, October 15, 2003 9:38 AM

To:

Halbur, Jennifer

Subject:

FW: I OPPOSE SB 186/AB 383!

CR INBOX

----Original Message----

From: princessq2@hotmail.com [mailto:princessq2@hotmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2003 6:29 PM

To: sen.roessler@legis.state.wi.us Subject: I OPPOSE SB 186/AB 383!

October 14, 2003

Dear Sen. Roessler,

I support the Family Planning Waiver as it is currently implemented and want my opposition to the effort to repeal the Waiver as proposed in SB 186/AB 383 counted during the public hearing.

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When this issue is before the Health and Family Law Committees, I urge you to support the Family Planning Waiver that provides basic health care to low-income women and saves Wisconsin taxpayers millions of dollars, and oppose SB 186/AB 383.

Sincerely,

Rachel Federlin 1131 E Concordia Ave

From:

Kurtz, Hunter

Sent:

Wednesday, October 15, 2003 9:38 AM

To:

Halbur, Jennifer

Subject:

FW: I OPPOSE SB 186/AB 383!

CR INBOX

----Original Message----

From: debramorse@cs.com [mailto:debramorse@cs.com]

Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2003 5:25 PM

To: sen.roessler@legis.state.wi.us Subject: I OPPOSE SB 186/AB 383!

October 14, 2003

Dear Sen. Roessler,

I support the Family Planning Waiver as it is currently implemented and want my opposition to the effort to repeal the Waiver as proposed in SB 186/AB 383 counted during the public hearing.

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When this issue is before the Health and Family Law Committees, I urge you to support the Family Planning Waiver that provides basic health care to low-income women and saves Wisconsin taxpayers millions of dollars, and oppose SB 186/AB 383.

Sincerely,

Debra Morse

1903 Kane Street La Crosse, WI 54603-2171

From:

cordova@uwm.edu

Sent:

Wednesday, October 15, 2003 12:05 PM

To: Subject: sen.roessler@legis.state.wi.us I OPPOSE SB 186/AB 383!

October 15, 2003

Dear Sen. Roessler,

I support the Family Planning Waiver as it is currently implemented and want my opposition to the effort to repeal the Waiver as proposed in SB 186/AB 383 counted during the public hearing.

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When this issue is before the Health and Family Law Committees, I urge you to support the Family Planning Waiver that provides basic health care to low-income women and saves Wisconsin taxpayers millions of dollars, and oppose SB 186/AB 383.

Sincerely,

Juanita Cordova 1864 N Cambridge Ave Apt 1 Milwaukee, WI 53202-1740

From:

caches@earthlink.net

Sent:

Wednesday, October 15, 2003 11:33 AM

To:

sen.roessler@legis.state.wi.us

Subject:

I OPPOSE AB 67!

October 15, 2003

Dear Sen. Roessler,

I am deeply disturbed by Assembly Bill 67, the "Denial of Health Care" bill and want my opposition to this bill counted during the public hearing.

Assembly Bill 67 would allow any doctor, nurse or other health care worker to refuse to administer needed health care to pregnant women! Doctors, and other health care workers, could also refuse to provide referrals for medical services, medication, or prenatal care. Furthermore, AB 67 grants immunity from liability to health care workers who deny these basic health care services, leaving women harmed by such actions without any legal recourse.

Under AB 67, pregnant women with epilepsy could be denied antiseizure medication; pregnant cancer patients could be denied
chemotherapy; prenatal care and tests, such as amniocentesis, can be
denied to pregnant women; and advanced directives, such as living
wills, can be ignored. It defies common sense why anyone would
support a measure that would deny pregnant women access to health
care and medication—and then further deny her the right to receive
an explanation or referral to alternative medical providers.
Compromising women's health and well—being by denying them health
care and treating them as second class citizens is not a matter of
conscience, it is simply unconscionable.

This bill is intentionally deceptive, and is couched in language such as "conscience clause" and "anti-discrimination." The effect of this bill is to discriminate against patients while simultaneously taking away any legal protections a patient may have when harmed. Please support women's access to basic health care, and oppose a bill that unconscionably threatens the health of Wisconsin residents.

Sincerely,

Carol Chesley 4481 N Larkin St Milwaukee, WI 53211-1541

From:

Kurtz, Hunter

Sent:

Thursday, October 16, 2003 8:40 AM

To:

Halbur, Jennifer

Subject:

FW: I OPPOSE SB 186/AB 383!

----Original Message----

From: Pojkex@aol.com [mailto:Pojkex@aol.com] Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2003 1:26 AM

To: sen.roessler@legis.state.wi.us Subject: I OPPOSE SB 186/AB 383!

October 15, 2003

Dear Sen. Roessler,

I support the Family Planning Waiver as it is currently implemented and want my opposition to the effort to repeal the Waiver as proposed in SB 186/AB 383 counted during the public hearing.

The Family Planning Waiver provides basic health care to low-income women and saves Wisconsin taxpayers millions of dollars. The Family Planning Waiver has already helped over 31,000 Wisconsin women access basic and needed preventative and diagnostic reproductive health care, including screenings for breast and cervical cancer, annual check-ups, birth control, and testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections.

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The Department of Health and Family Services has testified about their concern that efforts to amend young women out of the program could result in the loss of the entire Family Planning Waiver. In addition to attracting \$38 million in federal funds over the five-year project to Wisconsin, the Family Planning Waiver is estimated to save our state at least \$17 million GPR dollars and \$8.9 million in Medicaid costs associated with unintended pregnancies.

When this issue is before the Health and Family Law Committees, I urge you to support the Family Planning Waiver that provides basic health care to low-income women and saves Wisconsin taxpayers millions of dollars, and oppose SB 186/AB 383.

Sincerely,

Pat Koike 3160 S 95th St

From:

Kurtz, Hunter

Sent:

Thursday, October 16, 2003 8:43 AM

To:

Halbur, Jennifer

Subject:

FW: I OPPOSE SB 186/AB 383!

----Original Message----

From: theresahoeft@yahoo.com [mailto:theresahoeft@yahoo.com]

Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2003 1:41 PM

To: sen.roessler@legis.state.wi.us Subject: I OPPOSE SB 186/AB 383!

October 15, 2003

Dear Sen. Roessler,

I support the Family Planning Waiver as it is currently implemented and want my opposition to the effort to repeal the Waiver as proposed in SB 186/AB 383 counted during the public hearing.

The Family Planning Waiver provides basic health care to low-income women and saves Wisconsin taxpayers millions of dollars. The Family Planning Waiver has already helped over 31,000 Wisconsin women access basic and needed preventative and diagnostic reproductive health care, including screenings for breast and cervical cancer, annual check-ups, birth control, and testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections.

As you know, the Family Planning Waiver was implemented January of 2003 to extend family planning services to low-income women aged 15-44 who are at high risk of unintended pregnancy because they do not have health coverage through Medicaid or BadgerCare. The goals of the Family Planning Waiver are to reduce unintended and teen pregnancy, the transmission of sexually transmitted infections and to promote the early detection of cancer among low-income women who have no health care coverage. Prior to the implementation of the Family Planning Waiver, low-income women in Wisconsin had to be pregnant or have children to qualify for preventative reproductive health care services and birth control.

The Department of Health and Family Services has testified about their concern that efforts to amend young women out of the program could result in the loss of the entire Family Planning Waiver. In addition to attracting \$38 million in federal funds over the five-year project to Wisconsin, the Family Planning Waiver is estimated to save our state at least \$17 million GPR dollars and \$8.9 million in Medicaid costs associated with unintended pregnancies.

When this issue is before the Health and Family Law Committees, I urge you to support the Family Planning Waiver that provides basic health care to low-income women and saves Wisconsin taxpayers millions of dollars, and oppose SB 186/AB 383.

Sincerely,

Theresa Hoeft 467 Mitchell St

From:

Kurtz, Hunter

Sent:

Thursday, October 16, 2003 8:47 AM

To:

Halbur, Jennifer

Subject:

FW: I OPPOSE SB 186/AB 383!

ALL FROM CR"S INBOX I added a number of address to the end of this email they all sent the same thing.

----Original Message----

From: ggreatens@aol.com [mailto:ggreatens@aol.com]

Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2003 1:09 PM

To: sen.roessler@legis.state.wi.us Subject: I OPPOSE SB 186/AB 383!

October 15, 2003

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Sincerely,

Gina Marie Greatens 229 De Leers St Green Bay, WI 54302-3402

Jessica Brownell 409 Palomino Ln Madison, WI 53705-3428

Betsy Conrad 355 Fish Ogg E 716 W. Dayton Madison, WI

Juanita Cordova 1864 N Cambridge Ave Apt 1 Milwaukee, WI 53202-1740

Lauren Rauk 111 King St Ste 23 Madison, WI 53703-5110

Cindy Broxterman 311 1/2 Plank Rd Kaukauna, WI 54130-1647 McLane, Margaret

623 Ledgeview Blvd Fond Du Lac, WI 54935-3726

Email: meom@execpc.com

Contact Date: 10/15/2003

Contact Type:

Summary: oppose AB 383 and SB 186

Issue:

Position:

Description: Called to oppose these bills. She said she represented the LWV.

Status: Pending

Closed Date:

Assigned: Halbur, Jennifer

Owner: Halbur, Jennifer

Note Date:

Summary:

Contact Type:

Description:

Contact Detail

Gudex, Beverly

340 Linden St

Fond Du Lac, WI 54935-4958

Email: bevgudex@charter.net

Contact Date: 10/15/2003

Contact Type: E-mail

Summary: SB186

Issue:

Position:

Description: I printed this to give to CR for TU File

RHK

----Original Message----

From: bev gudex [mailto:bevgudex@charter.net] Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2003 3:59 PM To: Carol Roessler (Se.Roessler@legis.state.wi.us)

Subject: 2 Items

Good Morning Carol!

Hey, just wanted you to know we don't always disagree. I wish to thank you for your support on SB 71 & SB 72. Folks with mental illness appreciate your foresight.

I hope you are as progressive on SB186. I can't believe WI would want to turn down federal dollars for birth control. Sex has been around since the beginning of mankind and I think it is here to stay. As an elderly RN client of mine used to fondly and loudly say "Sex is a one of the strongest instincts mankind has!" Is there a time and place for sex - sure, but I would much rather have birth control available than pay for abortions and unwanted pregnancies. The sexism of not providing access and payment for birth control blows me away.

Have a great day and I await my white chili bean mix!

Bev Gudex

340 Linden St.

Fond du Lac, 54935

920-924-5852

Status: Pending

Closed Date:

Assigned: Halbur, Jennifer

Owner: Halbur, Jennifer

Note

Note Date:

Summary:



GCT 15 2003

WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

TO: Senate Committee on Health, Children, Families, Aging and Long Term Care

Assembly Committee on Family Law

FROM: Kathy Markeland, Associate Director Lathy Madelard

DATE: October 15, 2003

RE: Support for Assembly Bill 383 and Senate Bill 186 – Restricting Minor

Participation in Wisconsin's Family Planning Demonstration Project

Thank you for taking the time yesterday to hear testimony regarding Assembly Bill 383 and Senate Bill 186. The Wisconsin Catholic Conference supports passage of these bills.

Unfortunately, Bishop Robert Morlino of the Diocese of Madison was unable to remain at the hearing yesterday and offer testimony in support of the proposals. For your information, I have attached a copy of his remarks.

Gave a 1422 Copy to Octo read.

Please contact me if you have any questions.



Statement By Bishop Morlino

Support for Assembly Bill 383 and Senate Bill 186 Restricting Minor Participation in Wisconsin's Family Planning Demonstration Project

Since 1919, the bishops of the United States have been vocal advocates of the idea that all Americans should enjoy access to affordable health care. As the US Bishops stated in 1993, "Health care is more than a commodity; it is a basic human right, an essential safeguard of human life and dignity." Recognizing that this is a vision of health care that is as yet unrealized, we affirm that Wisconsin does better than most states in providing comprehensive health care for those in need, including pregnant women.

Having said this, we believe that neither abortion nor contraceptive services reflect the respect for human dignity that health care services should be designed to uphold. Wisconsin provides strict restrictions on publicly funded abortions. While Medical Assistance and BadgerCare do currently cover contraceptive services, those services are provided as a portion of a broader scope of primary health care. Therefore, while we consider contraceptive services to be generally outside the scope of "health care," we recognize that MA and BadgerCare reflect society's concern for the poor and marginalized and affirm the state's overall commitment to primary care for these populations.

In addition, our tradition asserts the fundamental role of parents as the first teachers, the first community in which children are taught responsibility, morality and citizenship. Our society depends upon parents to play this role and government should organize itself in such a way that it supports parents in their efforts.

As stated previously, we generally oppose any policy that establishes contraception as a public good. As a people committed to promoting the public good of marriage and family, it is our view that this proposed family planning demonstration project undermines the parent-child relationship and devalues abstinence until marriage.

While we see this project as problematic on moral grounds, opposition to the extension of this program to children need not rest on a denominational argument, for there are other practical reasons to support AB 383 and SB 186.

Society currently structures many programs and benefits to discourage out of wedlock births and the behaviors that foster them. While adults in our society are legally free to live as they wish and behave as they wish in private personal relationships, the government ought not give its implicit endorsement to conduct that has socially undesirable consequences.

We recognize some will argue that contraception serves to reduce unwanted pregnancies and the social ills that may ensue, including abortion. But we are confronted with the hard truths that broader access to contraception has not served to reduce the abortion rate nor the incidence of children being born to unmarried women. Indeed, oftentimes the opposite has occurred. Thus even on pragmatic grounds government funded access to contraceptives is not successful social policy.

The bills specifically address the impact of this program on minors. Under current law, minors are able to access family planning services and supplies without parental notification or consent. While we recognize that eliminating minors from this particular demonstration project will not change the existing law with regard to notification, we do believe that the inclusion of minors in this program will result in an increase in the number of minors able to access free family planning services without the knowledge of their parents. In fact, the "success" of the demonstration project depends upon increased access among minors.

Religious faith promotes and requires moral conviction. Morality rooted in religious faith leads people to voluntary self-restraint in many areas – such voluntary self-restraint serves the common good and minimizes the restraints that governments must place on citizens – thus such voluntary self-restraint is conducive to lived democracy where governments should minimally restrain citizens in accord with the common good. Without forcing religious faith on anyone, and without preventing anyone from the free exercise of religion, the government would do well to favor the free exercise of religion rather than undermine it directly or indirectly. The free exercise of religion is simply conducive to lived democracy.

Thus, we accept the proposition that the government should not establish a religion. But neither should government subsidize programs that undermine the morality that people of faith, any faith, try to model and pass on to their children.

Halbur, Jennifer

From:

Kurtz, Hunter

Sent:

Thursday, October 16, 2003 8:39 AM

To:

Halbur, Jennifer

Subject:

FW: I OPPOSE SB 186/AB 383!

----Original Message----

From: aseaholm@aol.com [mailto:aseaholm@aol.com]

Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2003 7:50 AM

To: sen.roessler@legis.state.wi.us Subject: I OPPOSE SB 186/AB 383!

October 16, 2003

Dear Sen. Roessler,

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When this issue is before the Health and Family Law Committees, I urge you to support the Family Planning Waiver that provides basic health care to low-income women and saves Wisconsin taxpayers millions of dollars, and oppose SB 186/AB 383.

Sincerely,

Allen Seaholm 1501 Martin St. #2

Halbur, Jennifer

From:

Asbjornson, Karen

Sent:

Thursday, October 16, 2003 2:19 PM

To:

Halbur, Jennifer

Subject:

FW: I OPPOSE SB 186/AB 383!

CR email

Karen Asbjornson Office of Senator Carol Roessler (608) 266-5300/1-888-736-8720 Karen.Asbjornson@legis.state.wi.us

----Original Message----

From: rausch2tr@yahoo.com [mailto:rausch2tr@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2003 1:10 PM

To: sen.roessler@legis.state.wi.us Subject: I OPPOSE SB 186/AB 383!

October 16, 2003

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When this issue is before the Health and Family Law Committees, I urge you to support the Family Planning Waiver that provides basic health care to low-income women and saves Wisconsin taxpayers

Rita Rausch 5809 Anchorage Ave Madison, WI 53705-4403

Halbur, Jennifer

From:

Asbjornson, Karen

Sent:

Thursday, October 16, 2003 10:47 AM

To:

Halbur, Jennifer

Subject:

FW: I OPPOSE SB 186/AB 383!

CR email - not constit

Karen Asbjornson Office of Senator Carol Roessler (608) 266-5300/1-888-736-8720 Karen.Asbjornson@legis.state.wi.us

----Original Message----

From: whartonj@uwm.edu [mailto:whartonj@uwm.edu]

Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2003 10:30 AM

To: sen.roessler@legis.state.wi.us Subject: I OPPOSE SB 186/AB 383!

October 16, 2003

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millions of dollars, and oppose SB 186/AB 383. Sincerely,

Jessica Wharton null Milwaukee, WI 53211